

Maintenance Medication Program

Prior to July 1, 2009, members were required to have maintenance medications filled as a 30 day fill before receiving a 90 day fill.

Effective July 1, 2009, this requirement is eliminated allowing members to be able to have a 90 day supply filled initially and have it filled at either a 90 day participating pharmacy or Medco-by-Mail. The Maintenance Medication Program provides cost savings to members and the State of Delaware.

A maintenance medication is a medication that generally is used to control a condition or disease that lasts for an extended period of time (up to a lifetime). These medications do not cure a condition or disease but do control it and without taking maintenance medications the member's quality of life would suffer. A few examples of these conditions and diseases include diabetes, high blood pressure (hypertension), cholesterol, and asthma. Members should discuss their condition or disease with their treating physician to determine if a maintenance medication is appropriate. Non-maintenance medications are those medications used to treat short term conditions. In general these medications will cure or help cure a disease or condition. These medications are taken for a short period of time and when the disease or condition is cured there is no need to continue taking the medication. A few examples of these conditions and diseases include bronchitis, ear infections, sinus infections, bone or muscle injuries.

When members receive maintenance medications every 30 days, they pay three 30 day copays in order to receive a 90 day supply of medication. Members can realize a savings by having 90 day prescriptions filled, for example.

Generic maintenance medication filled as three 30 day fills cost \$25.50 OR one 90 day fill cost \$17.00 for a savings of \$8.50 and an annual estimated savings of \$34.00

Formulary/preferred maintenance medication filled as three 30 day fills cost \$60.00 OR one 90 day cost \$40.00 for a savings of \$20.00 and an annual estimated savings of \$80.00

Non-formulary/non-preferred maintenance medication filled as three 30 day fills cost \$135.00 OR one 90 day cost \$90.00 for a savings of \$45.00 and an annual estimated savings of \$180.00

Beginning July 1, 2009, if a member does not choose to fill a maintenance medication for a 90 day supply after filling the medication for three 30 day supplies, a penalty will be assessed and the member will pay a copay equivalent to the applicable 90 day copay for the medication . For example:

Generic maintenance medication: for a 30 day supply cost will be \$17.00 after three 30 days fills

Formulary/preferred maintenance medication: for a 30 day supply cost will be \$40.00 after three 30 days fills

Non-formulary/non-preferred maintenance medication: for a 30 day supply cost will be \$90.00 after three 30 day fills.

Members may continue to have their treating physician write a 30 day prescription and a 90 day prescription and have the 30 day prescription filled first to ensure its effectiveness and then have the 90 day prescription filled. The penalty does not occur until the 30 day prescription is filled the fourth time.

Members may have 90 day prescriptions filled at a 90 day participating pharmacy or Medco-by Mail. A list of 90 day participating pharmacies, within and outside of Delaware, is located at <http://ben.omb.delaware.gov/script/index.shtml> or by calling Medco's Member Services at 1-800-939-2142.

Prescriptions written for 90 day fills may be filled by either of these methods:

By visiting a 90 day participating pharmacy; or

By mailing to Medco-by-Mail with order form and payment; order form is located at http://ben.omb.delaware.gov/script/documents/medco/Medco_by_Mail_Ord_Form.pdf ; or

By having treating physician fax prescription to Medco at http://ben.omb.delaware.gov/script/documents/medco/Pres_Fax_Form.pdf or physician may call 1-88-327-9791. Only physicians may fax prescriptions.

In early June 2009 members will receive a letter from Medco providing notice of the Maintenance Medication Program. Beginning July 1, 2009, members having a 30 day prescription filled for the second time will receive a reminder letter from Medco. Members having a 30 day prescription filled the third time will receive an additional reminder letter from Medco. New members will receive notice of this program when they join the State of Delaware's health care plan. Sample letters are available at <http://ben.omb.delaware.gov/script/index.shtml>

Medications, such as certain controlled substances or medications that are pre-packaged, are not available in a 90-day supply, and any current quantity or plan limits remain in effect.

Concerns and questions may be directed to Medco's Member Services at 1-800-939-2142 or Statewide Benefits Office at 302-739-8331 or 1-800-489-8933.